

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /082 W

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R 031727Z EAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9519

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON GREENHILL
MISSION

REF: LONDON 3306

1. IN PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 2, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN
STATED THAT HE IS STILL REFLECTING ON LORD GREENHILL'S
REPORT OF HIS MISSION TO SALISBURY AND "CONSIDERING
WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN USEFULLY DO." IN
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AGREEING WITH CONSERVATIVE SPOKESMAN CHRISTOPHER TUGEND-HAT, CALLAGHAN EMPHASIZED THAT HMG'S OBJECTIVE IN RHODESIA IS A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY BUT THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THIS ALTERNATIVE. "IF THESE (SMITH-NKOMO) TALKS BREAK DOWN", HE SAID, "GUERRILLA ACTIVITY WILL ACCELERATE. NO DOUBT THAT CAN BE CONTAINED BY THE EUROPEAN FORCES FOR A TIME, BUT IN THE END THEY WILL NOT PREVAIL. THIS IS THE REALITY. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHAT ANYBODY WANTS BUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN ...I CANNOT IMAGINE ANY BRITISH GOVERNMENT PUTTING IN ARMED FORCES TO SUPPORT MR. SMITH IN A CAUSE WHICH IS UNDOUBTEDLY WRONG AND IN A WAR THAT HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LOSE." CALLAGHAN SUGGESTED THAT THE SITUATION REQUIRED A MENTAL LEAP BY IAN SMITH INTO AN ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY RULE BUT THAT THERE IS NO SIGN THE RHODESIAN LEADER IS PREPARED FOR THAT JUMP. "MR. SMITH IS HIS OWN MAN AND WILL GO HIS OWN WAY, BUT WHETHER TO HEAVEN OR PERDITION, I AM NOT SURE."

2. CALLAGHAN WAS TWICE ASKED TO COMMENT ON NEWS REPORTS OF A "NEAR BREAKTHROUGH" IN THE SMITH-NKOMO NEGOTIATIONS. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE HAD "NO IDEA WHAT HAD GONE ON" AND "NO IDEA WHAT HAD PASSED BETWEEN THE TWO."

3. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN OFFICE CONTINUES TO BE BOTH LEERY AND ANNOYED BY THE BREAKTHROUGH REPORTS. LEERY BECAUSE SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE ALL TOO TYPICAL OF SMITH'S TACTICS IN DRAGGING OUT THE NEGOTIATIONS, USING THE BRITISH, AND CONFUSING THE ISSUES; ANNOYED BECAUSE GREENHILL DEPARTED SALISBURY WITH NO HINT THAT ANY CONCESSIONS WERE IN THE OFFING, AND CALLAGHAN'S IGNORANCE OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED MAKES THE MISSION ITSELF LOOK FOOLISH.

SPIERS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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